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HOLIDAY SHOPPING CRUNCH TIME

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SMOKE 'EM IF YA GOT 'EM

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1. What does Eversource Energy propose to do off the coast of Martha's Vineyard?

2. The Patriots have an NFL-best point differential of what?

3. What animated film did "Collateral Beauty" actor Edward Norton do voice work on this year?

3 things you need to know

EX-CIA CHIEF SAYS TRUMP RISKS BLAME FOR ATTACK IF HE SKIPS BRIEFINGS

1 Former CIA director Leon Panetta said on Wednesday that President-elect Donald Trump risked being blamed after any potential attack on the United States if he refused to receive more regular intelligence briefings. U.S. officials told Reuters that Trump is receiving an average of one presidential intelligence briefing a week - far fewer than most of his recent predecessors — but that his deputy Mike Pence gets briefings around six days a week. Panetta, a former Democratic Congressman who served as CIA director and defense secretary in President Barack Obama's first term, told the Arab Strategy Forum, a conference sponsored by the government of Dubai, that Trump's aversion "can't last." REUTERS

ASHLEY MADISON OWNER TO PAY $1.66M TO SETTLE FTC CASE

2 The owner of hacked infidelity website Ashley Madison will pay $1.66 million to settle an investigation by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and several U.S. states into lax data security and deceptive practices, the company and authorities said on Wednesday. The remainder of a $17.5 million settlement was suspended based on privately-held Ruby Corp.'s inability to pay, the office of New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman said in a statement. The company first disclosed it was the target of an FTC investigation in a Reuters interview in July. The agreement follows investigations by the FTC, 13 states and the District of Columbia, which found the company had lax security practices in place at the time of the July 2015 breach. REUTERS

UBER LAUNCHES SELF-DRIVING CAR FLEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

3 Uber has rolled out its self-driving car fleet in its hometown of San Francisco, despite lacking the proper permit that state regulators say is required. Starting Wednesday, riders who request an UberX, one of the company's budget ride options, may be matched with a self-driving Uber. It is unclear how many of these cars Uber has in San Francisco. Launching the program kicked off a battle with the California Department of Motor Vehicles, which said on Tuesday that Uber does not have a permit to test autonomous vehicles on California roads, and demanded the company follow the permitting process that is in place. "Twenty manufacturers have already obtained permits to test hundreds of cars on California roads. Uber shall do the same," the agency said in a written statement. REUTERS

ISTOCK

Pot now legal statewide, but scoring some isn't

Marijuana is legal in Massachusetts as of Thursday, but dispensaries won't open until 2017.

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The law of the land says recreational use of marijuana is now legal in Massachusetts, but for those looking to toke up, there's a catch.

Until regulated retail shops open next year, there's no legal market to buy or sell marijuana, leaving smokers a bit hazy on how to get it.

"People are going to continue to buy marijuana tomorrow from the same place they've been buying for the last 100 years: the black market," Erik Altieri, executive director of the Washington-based pro-legalization group NORML, said Wednesday.

That means adults over 21 who — as of Thursday — can legally possess up to 10 ounces of marijuana in their homes, up to 1 ounce in public, and grow up to six plants, will still have to rely on their neighborhood drug dealer to supply their weed.

The law does allow for "gifting" of up to an ounce of marijuana. Other than that, Altieri said the only way to avoid breaking the law would be to grow it yourself.

This seemingly legal gray area was not lost on the architects of state ballot Question 4, which was formally certified Wednesday by the Governor's Council.

"We wanted to end prohibition as soon as we could, but can't just magically create a retail environment," Jim Borghesani, communications director for the Campaign to Tax + Regulate Marijuana, which lead the "Yes on 4" charge.

The 18-month gap between legalizing possession and opening the regulated retail sales market is actually typical — all eight states plus Washington, D.C. that have voted to legalize followed the same path, Altieri said. Marijuana advocates described the gap as a sort of a trade-off to encourage states to fast-track legalization, but give them time to develop the means to regulate the legal market.

"It encourages state regulators and legislators to implement the retail outlets in a timely and effective manner in order to encourage anyone purchasing on the black market to move to the legal market," he said.

> *"We wanted to end prohibition as soon as we could, but can't just magically create a retail environment."*
> Jim Borghesani

Until then, selling marijuana in Massachusetts will remain a crime punishable by up to two years in jail and a fine of up to $5,000. The exception would be medical marijuana, which is regulated by the state.

"The passage of Question 4 makes no changes to the current law for the selling of class "D" substances. The BPD will continue to enforce the law as it pertains to the illegal sale of drugs in Boston," Lt. Mike McCarthy said in a statement.

The mayor's office sent a reminder to residents Wednesday that legalization comes with limits.

Smoking in public anywhere that tobacco is prohibited is still illegal — and yes, that includes you with the vaporizer pen. Those caught using in public will be hit with a $500 fine.

Furthermore, it is illegal to drive under the influence of marijuana and laws governing that will remain unchanged.

Low-level pot dealers have been a low priority on state and federal watch lists, prosecutors said.

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Boston Children's Hospital patients get sweet treats and needed support

A candy drive by The B Fund nonprofit raised $10,000 for the hospital.

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Boston Children's Hospital will be getting some sweet treats on Thursday.

More than 2,300 bags of candy will be delivered to critically-ill patients, their families and the hospital staff that cares for them. Each bag will come with a note handwritten by kids from elementary schools throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

It's all part of an effort by The B Fund, a nonprofit organization that gets children involved in charity efforts, while supporting families of critically-ill children. All proceeds from The B Fund benefit Boston Children's Hospital.

The B Fund provides much-needed resources for families who are caring for their children and empowers children to make a difference in the lives of others, said Melanie Torosyan, who is director of the major gift giving at Boston Children's Hospital Trust.

For a parent, seeing your child struggle with an illness or other medical complications may be one of the most difficult things to witness. Kathleen VanDernoot, who helped start The B Fund, knows this feeling all too well. She had two children spend time in intensive care units at Boston Children's Hospital.

"As a parent that cared for a critically ill child, it was one of darkest experiences for myself and my family's life," she said. VanDernoot's worst fears came true when her son died while in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"It was the random acts of kindness by strangers that got me through the day."
Kathleen VanDernoot

But her daughter received intensive care at the same hospital and pulled through. VanDernoot then began thinking about how helpless and scared the other parents in the waiting room were.

She knew how that felt, and she knew she had to do something to help. She was one of four founding families to start The B Fund. And along with helping those caring for children, VanDernoot wanted to help other kids give back.

"If you think about it, we have to develop compassion in a child similar to developing muscles for strength," she said.

One of the most successful ways she helps kids get involved is through the candy drive she said.

A student writes a heartwarming note to go along with her bag of candy. THE B FUND

The candy being delivered on Thursday was donated from the Halloween stashes of those same elementary school students who wrote the accompanying notes.

VanDernoot didn't want to just have children solicit donations or ask for money for The B Fund. She wanted them to understand the significance of giving.

By pairing with private donors, The B Fund adds a value to each piece of candy a child donates.

Donors contribute 25 cents per piece of candy donated. With more than 3,500 kids participating, The B Fund raised $10,000 for Boston Children's Hospital — and the candy still gets put to good use as a treat for the patients, families and hospital workers.

VanDernoot said some of the children were hesitant about giving away their own candy, but it became a teaching moment to talk about how their efforts would help others, and to acknowledge what they're doing.

For the expanded version, visit metro.us

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City's fight to end homelessness focuses on most vulnerable cases

"Hospital to Housing," a public-private partnership, will reach out to those with behavioral issues.

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About a quarter of the country's homeless population struggles with serious mental illness, compared to roroughly 6 percent of the rest of Americans, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

In Boston, the number of homeless with mental health issues approaches nearly 40 percent of that population. And while Boston has seen the number of chronically homeless drop to below 500 people, it has not been able to reach those special-case individuals who struggle with behavioral issues, or with substance abuse as well as physical disabilities.

That's why the Boston Public Health Commission this week introduced its public-private partnership called "Hospital to Housing." The initiative sends community health workers to visit shelters or hospitals to work one-on-one with homeless people who have special needs.

> *"Our mission is to help people live healthier lives and obviously housing is critical in that equation."*
>
> Greg Stupin

Introduced this week, Hospital to Housing is a joint effort with the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance, the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership — part of Beacon Health Options — and the United Health Foundation.

"The Hospital to Housing initiative is just one more opportunity for us in the health commission to tailor the way in which we deliver our services to provide our guests and our clients with a stable foundation and on the right path to permanent housing," said Monica Valdes Lupi, BPHC executive director.

When someone's life becomes more stable, they can more easily move forward and into housing, Lupi added.

Mayor Marty Walsh has been working on an ambitious plan to end chronic homelessness in the city by 2018 by getting these residents out of shelters and into homes.

Boston already has had some success in tackling homelessness. Through the city's efforts, officials said, the chronically homeless population dropped from 612 in January to below 500 six months later.

Hospital to Housing hopes to help many of those who remain on the streets.

United Health Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, provided the funding for five outreach workers. The professionals will "assist shelter guests with accessing permanent housing, and will support both homeless and formerly homeless individuals in connecting to behavioral health and primary care," according to BPHC.

The outreach workers will team with homeless-service providers across the commonwealth, including two workers specifically staffing Boston-area shelters.

For the expanded version, visit metro.us

Boston has dramatically reduced the number of chronic homeless but has had a more difficult time reaching those with mental health or substance abuse issues. FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS / J. RONALD LEE

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BRIEF

Donate to Metro's Toy Drive
In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

This year marks the 7th anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help other's and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro's Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to Metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic story on the homepage.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

It's good to receive a gift. It's better to give one. METRO

Wind turbines GETTY IMAGES

Eversource invests in new offshore wind project

Turbines will be online by 2027.

Eversource Energy is moving into the offshore wind energy picture in Massachusetts.

In January 2015, the company's predecessor, Northeast Utilities, was one of two utilities that terminated their power purchase agreements with Cape Wind, an energy project planned for Nantucket Sound that has never gotten off the seafloor due to financing and legal challenges and local opposition.

Now, Eversource is teaming up with DONG Energy on an undertaking with brighter prospects - the Bay State Wind project planned for deeper waters well off the coast of Martha's Vineyard.

The company that transmits and delivers electricity and natural gas to more than 3.6 million customers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire has acquired a 50 percent ownership interest in the project, the News Service has learned. Officials did not disclose financial aspects of the acquisition.

"We are encouraged by the dramatic progress that Europe is making in the offshore wind market. Wind technology is rapidly advancing, output is increasing and prices are dramatically dropping," Lee Olivier, a strategy and business development executive at Eversource Energy, said in a statement. "Now is the time to bring that progress here to New England, and we are thrilled to be partnering with a developer who has such a successful track record."

While they plan to jointly develop, construct and operate the project, the companies are divvying up the work, with DONG Energy handling the offshore wind responsibilities and Eversource taking on the onshore transmission aspects.

The project would be located about 15 to 25 miles south of Martha's Vineyard in an area where industry interests are gearing up to compete for development rights in connection with a state-managed offshore energy procurement.

In August, Gov. Charlie Baker signed a law that requires state utilities to purchase 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2027. DONG officials expect the first state-led procurement process under that law to begin in June 2017 and the first power to be delivered from offshore wind in the "early 2020s."

DONG Energy in April 2015 secured project development rights to a 300 square mile area that was made available for lease by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Other companies are expected to compete to develop projects in the same area.

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Doctor's Memory Breakthrough

One Simple Trick to Reversing Memory Loss

World's Leading Brain Expert and Winner of the Prestigious Kennedy Award, Unveils Exciting News For the Scattered, Unfocused and Forgetful

Dr. Meir Shinitzky, Ph.D. a former visiting professor at Duke University and a recipient of the prestigious J.F. Kennedy Prize

By Steven Wuzubia
Health Correspondent;

Clearwater, Florida: Dr. Meir Shinitzky, Ph.D., is a former visiting professor at Duke University, recipient of the prestigious J.F. Kennedy Prize and author of more than 200 international scientific papers on human body cells. But now he's come up with what the medical world considers his greatest accomplishment — A vital compound, so powerful, it's reported to repair... even regrow damaged brain cells. In layman's terms — Bring back your memory power. And leave you feeling more focused and clear-headed than you have in years!

Dr. Shinitsky explains this phenomenon in simple terms; "Science has shown when your brain nutrient levels drop, you can start to experience memory problems and overall mental fatigue. Your ability to concentrate and stay focused becomes compromised. And gradually, a "mental fog" sets in. It can damage every aspect of your life". Not only do brain cells die but they become dysfunctional as if they begin to fade away as we age. This affects our ability to have mental clarity and focus and impacts our ability to remember things that were easy for us to do in our 20's and 30's.

Scientists think the biggest cause of brain deterioration in older people is the decreased functioning of membranes and molecules that surround the brain cells. These really are the transmitters that connect the tissues or the brain cells to one another that help us with our sharp memory, clear thinking and mental focus, even our powers to reason well. "When we are in our 20's" according to Dr. Shinitzky "our body produces key substances like phosphatidylserine and phosphatidic acid"...unfortunately they are believed to be critical essential nutrients that just fade away with age, much like our memories often do leading to further mental deterioration.

As we get older it becomes more frustrating as there is little comfort when you forget names... misplace your keys...or just feel "a little confused". And even though your foggy memory gets laughed off as just another "senior moment," it's not very funny when it keeps happening to you.

The Missing Link is Found and Tested

It's hard to pronounce that's for sure, but it certainly appears from the astounding clinical research that this one vital nutrient phosphatidylserine (PS) can really make a huge difference in our mental wellness. 17 different double blind studies with placebo controlled groups have been involved in the clinical research of PS with patients between the ages of 55-80 years of age. Periodically the researchers gave these patients memory and cognitive tests and the results were simply amazing:

1) PS patients outperformed placebo patients in All 5 Tests - 100% Success Rate
2) After only 45 days there was a measurable improvement in mental function
3) After 90 days, there was an impressive and amazing improvement in mental function

The group taking phosphatidylserine, not only enjoyed sharper memory, but listen to this... they were also more upbeat and remarkably more happy. In contrast, the moods of the individuals who took the placebo (starch pill), remained unaffected....no mental or mood improvement at all.

My Memory Started to Scare Me.

I would forget all kinds of things and something that I just said earlier in the day would have completely slipped my mind. I almost forgot my granddaughter's birthday and that would have been horrible. I had forgotten lots of other little things along the way. I was worried about it.

Over the last several months I've noticed my memory seemed to be getting pretty unreliable and so I thought I'd better do something about it now. So when I read about this amazing PS nutrient and how much it would help me with my memory I wanted to try it.

It's great! I have actual recall now, which is super. After about 6 weeks of taking it on a daily basis is when I began to notice that I wasn't forgetting things anymore.

Thanks to PS for giving me my memory back. It's given me a lot more self-confidence and self-esteem. I would not trust my memory without it.

- Ethel Macgmoney

Vital Nutrient Reverses "Scatter Brain"

This incredible PS nutrient feeds your brain the vital nutrient it needs to stay healthy... PS now has the attention of some of the world's most prominent brain experts. It has been written up and published in leading science and medical journals and its findings have electrified the International scientific community.

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[1] www.dopedirectory.com

[2] http://www.thecannabist.co/2015/07/01/washington-state-pot-law-overhaul-marijuana-tax-reset-at-37-percent/37238/

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BU president: School won't share info about undocumented students

CANDID CAMPUS

Metro's look inside Boston's college campuses

Boston University WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Boston University students recently submitted a petition calling on the school's president, provost and dean to declare the college a "sanctuary campus," an action undertaken by colleges throughout the city and across the country.

President Robert A. Brown replied to the petition in a letter to the BU community this week, saying that the school won't share information about undocumented students unless required to do so by a warrant or subpoena.

"If students self-identify to the university as undocumented, we will provide advice and counsel as appropriate and on a case-by-case basis," Brown wrote. "We will not volunteer information about such students."

Immediately after Donald Trump was announced as the president-elect, Harvard students, staff and faculty crafted a petition calling upon their administrators to adopt the sanctuary campus moniker out of concerns for students who benefit from Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program that protects undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children.

Harvard University President Drew Faust announced last week that she would not call Harvard a sanctuary campus, citing that the phrase, unlike a "sanctuary city," has "no legal significance or even clear definition."

Following the election, Brown wrote a letter to BU students in which he noted the strong values upon which the school was founded and the need to hold on to them.

"We are committed to offering undocumented students our fullest support possible while complying with federal law."

Robert A. Brown

BU students turned Brown's words back to him in their petition, writing "In your letter to the student body ... you detail how Boston University was 'founded by a group of abolitionists who abhorred slavery'; currently, we are called upon once again to defend and preserve vulnerable members of our community, such as undocumented students. "

While Brown did not say that the institution would call itself a sanctuary campus, he did write this week that "we are committed to offering undocumented students our fullest support possible while complying with federal law."

Brown wrote that those asking for the sanctuary campus also wanted the administration to bar representatives of federal agencies like the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection from coming onto BU's campus and enforcing federal immigration laws there.

"This is not a promise we can make, as the university must obey the applicable state and federal laws," Brown wrote.

However, he assured the community that the Boston University Police Department "does not currently play any role in the enforcement of such laws and will not voluntarily assist the federal government in immigration enforcement."

At the end of November, Brown signed an open letter along with more than 250 leaders in higher education to urge the country to preserve DACA. He told the BU community this week that he hopes the program continues.

"If it is curtailed or terminated, we will seek to provide such support as is consistent with the definitions of the DACA statute," he wrote. "Boston University has a great tradition of inclusiveness. We honor that legacy by extending our hands in welcome and keeping open the doors to opportunity."

Donald Trump meets Silicon Valley elite

From left, Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook, Vice President-elect Mike Pence and President-elect Donald Trump listen during a meeting of technology executives at Trump Tower on Wednesday in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

Trump clashed with Silicon Valley on several issues during the election campaign, including immigration, government surveillance and encryption, and his victory last month alarmed many companies that feared he might follow through on his pledges.

Donald Trump and some of Silicon Valley's most powerful executives met at his Manhattan tower on Wednesday, a summit convened to smooth over frictions after both sides made no secret of their disdain for each other during the presidential campaign.

The meeting was expected to focus on economic issues and skirt the numerous disagreements the tech industry has with Trump — including on immigration, the trade relationship with China and digital privacy — in favor of a focus on shared priorities, sources said.

"There's nobody like the people in this room, and anything we can do to help this go along, we're going to do that for you," Trump told the executives gathered in a conference room on the 25th floor of Trump Tower. "You call my people, you call me, it doesn't make any difference. We have no formal chain of command," he said.

Three of Trump's adult children, Donald Jr., Eric and Ivanka, sat at the head of a large rectangular table as the meeting began. Their attendance may fuel further concern about potential conflicts of interests for Trump, who has said he would hand over control of his business empire to his children while he occupies the White House.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence was also in attendance. Guests sat in front of paper name plates and bottles of water sporting the Trump brand logo.

The meeting between tech luminaries, including Apple Inc.'s Tim Cook, Facebook Inc.'s Sheryl Sandberg and Tesla Motors Inc.'s Elon Musk, took place as Trump has alarmed some U.S. corporations with his rhetoric challenging long-established policy toward China, a main market for Silicon Valley.

A senior Chinese state planning official told the China Daily newspaper Wednesday that Beijing could slap a penalty on a U.S. automaker for monopolistic behavior, a warning delivered days after Trump questioned acknowledging Taiwan as part of "one China." The official did not identify the automaker.

"There's nobody like the people in this room, and anything we can do to help this go along, we're going to do that for you."
Trump

The tech summit is being billed as an introductory session, said sources briefed on the talks.

Several company executives thanked Trump for hosting the meeting during introductions attended by reporters. Sandberg said she was most interested in discussing job creation.

Other expected participants include Alphabet Inc.'s Larry Page and Eric Schmidt, Amazon.com's Jeff Bezos, Microsoft Corp.'s Satya Nadella, and Ginni Rometty from IBM, sources said.

Cook and Musk will join Trump for a smaller meeting after the other technology executives leave, a spokesman for Trump's transition team said.

The CEOs of Airbnb and Uber were invited but did not attending. Uber's Travis Kalanick will instead be traveling in India all week, according to a person familiar with his plans.

"You look at some of these tech stocks that are so, so weak as a concept and a company and they're selling for so much money," Trump told Reuters in an interview in May.

Those concerns have not been assuaged in recent weeks as Trump has threatened to upset trade relationships with China and appoint officials who favor expanded surveillance programs. REUTERS

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Aleppo assault likely a war crime, says UN as evacuation stalls

There were clashes on the ground later in the day, with rebels saying they launched an attack against government forces using suicide car bombs.

A general view shows Syrian pro-government forces walking in the ancient Umayyad mosque in the old city of Aleppo. GETTY IMAGES

Plans to evacuate besieged rebel districts of Aleppo were under threat on Wednesday as renewed airstrikes and shelling rocked the Syrian city in a bombardment the United Nations said "most likely constitutes war crimes."

Iran, one of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's main backers, imposed new conditions on a ceasefire deal, saying it wanted the simultaneous evacuation of wounded from two villages besieged by rebel fighters, according to rebel and U.N. sources.

There was no sign of that happening. Instead airstrikes, shelling and gunfire erupted in Aleppo and Turkey accused government forces of breaking the truce agreed less than a day before. Syrian state television said rebel shelling killed six people.

A ceasefire brokered by Russia, Assad's most powerful ally, and Turkey was intended to end years of fighting in the city, giving the Syrian leader his biggest victory in more than five years of war. The evacuation of rebel-held areas was expected to start in the early hours of Wednesday, but did not materialize.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein said he was appalled that the deal appeared to have collapsed.

"While the reasons for the breakdown in the ceasefire are disputed, the resumption of extremely heavy bombardment by the Syrian government forces and their allies on an area packed with civilians is almost certainly a violation of international law and most likely constitutes war crimes," he added.

There was no immediate indication when the evacuation of civilians and rebel fighters might take place but a pro-opposition TV station said it could be delayed until Thursday. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Russian leader Vladimir Putin agreed in a phone call to make a joint effort to start the process, Turkish presidential sources said.

There was no sign of Iran's conditions being met. Insurgents fired shells at the two majority-Shi'ite villages from which Tehran wanted wounded to be evacuated, Foua and Kefraya, in Idlib province west of Aleppo, causing some casualties, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. REUTERS

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Fed raises rates, sees faster pace of increases in 2017

The Federal Reserve raised interest rates by a quarter point on Wednesday and signaled a faster pace of increases in 2017 as the Trump administration takes over with promises to boost growth through tax cuts, spending and deregulation.

The rate increase, regarded as a virtual certainty by financial markets in the wake of a string of generally strong economic reports, raised the target federal funds rate 25 basis points to between 0.50 percent and 0.75 percent. Bond yields and the dollar rose after the rate decision while stocks were mixed with financials and tech the only two sectors to show gains.

"In view of realized and expected labor market conditions and inflation, the committee decided to raise the target range," the central bank's policy-setting committee said in its unanimous statement after a two-day meeting.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. GETTY IMAGES

"Job gains have been solid in recent months and the unemployment rate has declined."
The Fed

"Job gains have been solid in recent months and the unemployment rate has declined," the Fed said, noting that market-based measures of inflation compensation had moved up "considerably."

More significant was a fresh batch of Fed policymaker forecasts that indicated the current once-a-year pace of rate increases will accelerate next year. Markets and the Fed appeared to be close on pricing with Fed futures markets pricing in at least two and possibly three hikes, up from one to two prior to the meeting.

With President-elect Donald Trump planning a simultaneous round of tax cuts and increased spending on infrastructure, central bank policymakers shifted their outlook to one of slightly faster growth, lower unemployment and inflation just under the Fed's 2 percent target.

The Fed's median outlook for rates rose to three quarter-point increases in 2017 from two as of September. That would be followed by another three increases in both 2018 and 2019 before the rate levels off at a long-run "normal" 3 percent. REUTERS

John Mayer posts the shadiest tweet on Taylor Swift's birthday

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

John Mayer has quite the extensive celebrity dating history. Jennifer Aniston, Jessica Simpson and Katy Perry have all had the honor — or misfortune, depending on whom you ask — to call him bae. But it was Taylor Swift who, after their four-month fling ended in 2010, penned a song called "Dear John" blasting the singer for playing "dark, twisted games." It may be that Swift isn't the only one with a bad taste in her mouth. Her birthday was Tuesday, and in a now-deleted tweet, John Mayer called Dec. 13 the "lamest day of the year." He later clarified that the tweet wasn't about his ex, but a fan took a screenshot of the tweet, so it will forever live on the internet, further evidence that John Mayer is probably a jerk.

the word

SESALI BOWEN
sesali.bowen@metro.us

Half of 'Property Brothers' gets engaged

It's been a good week for Drew Scott, one half of HGTV's "Property Brothers." (He's the metrosexual one, in case you get him mixed up with his brother Jonathan.) On Tuesday, Drew proposed to his longtime girlfriend, Linda Phan, at Piano Piano in Toronto, reports People magazine. The 38-year-old had been planning the surprise proposal for weeks, and apparently it was worth it. He gushed about his fiancée, "I've never met another woman like her, and once you do, you want to be with her forever." Drew recorded his own version of Train's "Marry Me" to be played at the restaurant and had a cake decorated with illustrations from Dr. Seuss' "Oh the Places You'll Go," Phan's favorite book, changing the words to "Oh the Places We'll Go." After she said yes, they went to another venue, where friends and family were waiting to party with the happy couple. We're glad to know HGTV isn't all divorce and exorcisms now.

Double Trouble

Sometimes the only thing better than a hot celebrity is one who looks exactly like him or her. We're not talking about Katy Perry-Zooey Deschanel doppelganger situations, either. These real-life twins have us seeing double in the best possible way.
Head over to Metro.us for the full list.

Edward Norton plays an exec who, in addition to helping a grieving friend (Will Smith), tries to reconnect with his semi-estranged young daughter (Kylie Rogers) in "Collateral Beauty." BARRY WETCHER, IMAGE BELOW GETTY IMAGES

Edward Norton gets into the holiday spirit

The Oscar-nominee says right now is weirdly perfect for "Collateral Beauty."

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Edward Norton doesn't do a lot of feel-good movies. He does heavy cinema. He's a real actor. He'll do comedies, like "Sausage Party." (And "Birdman" is pretty funny.) But something like the warm-hearted "Collateral Beauty" is rare for him. A holiday dramedy, it concerns a businessman (Will Smith) who's become a recluse three years after the death of his young daughter. To snap him out of it, his friends/colleagues (Norton, Kate Winslet and Michael Pena) hire actors (Helen Mirren, Keira Knightley and Jacob Latimore) to pretend to be spiritual beings, who he thinks no one but him can see. Positive (and sometimes comedic) though it is, it's also a stark film about grief, trauma and death.

It's strange to see a movie this positive about life and the world right now.

I've been saying to people, "If you hated this election cycle, you'll love 'Collateral Beauty.'" [Laughs] There are so many dimensions to the whole experience this year. It's going to take time. And it's still unfolding — that's what's so crazy. We're in this very, very, very strange, new period right now. It's like a veil has been dropped. Sometimes I feel like the Republican party was an 18-wheeler, but the tractor-trailer came off the cab. You have this corporate plutocracy driving all this working class rage, and managing to corral it for a while and hoodwink it, bamboozle it. Then it's like the tractor-trailer came off the cab and went careening down the highway on its own.

This movie is sort of about what we're going through: It's about dealing honestly with pain and grief and death, at a time when we need to be honest with what's going on in the world.

An old friend of mine [Toby Emmerich], who runs the studio making this film, called me and said, "I got Will Smith in this thing, and I really want to pull you together. It's a movie I want to have out for the holidays." As soon as he said "holidays," I said, "You got the wrong guy, Toby! [Laughs] That ain't my bag." He said, "There's a kind of old school 'It's a Wonderful Life' wisdom in this thing." I read it, and I was quite surprised by the very mature wisdom. I actually think my friend was right. I think the underlying message, which is very apt for the end of the year, is that there's a value to remembering that pain and loss are intrinsic parts of life. It's not that you can get through them, but you can have a wider, deeper life because of them.

It's a positive movie about embracing the fact that death is a fact of life.

[Laughs] Exactly. Well, thanks to Trump, we're all probably going to die within the next two years.

On Viola Davis' great #SeeHer speech

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

Last Sunday night, the Broadcast Film Critics Association and the Broadcast Television Journalists Association held the Critics' Choice Awards. This year, we had an award that brought me to tears: the first-ever #SeeHer Award. It's the result of a campaign started by the Association of National Advertisers and its Alliance for Family Entertainment, and it's backed by the White House. It's an effort to eliminate bias against women in advertising and in the media by increasing the "accurate portrayal of girls and women" by 20 percent by 2020.

The award was won by Viola Davis, who was nominated that night for her role in "How to Get Away with Murder" and who won Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Fences." This woman is beyond accomplished, and she took on an issue that actresses rarely speak about: overcoming the self-consciousness that comes with expectations of beauty.

Viola Davis took the stage at the Critics' Choice Awards on Dec. 11 and delivered a helluva speech. GETTY IMAGES

There were very few dry eyes in the house, at least from my vantage point. We've all been through this. We all know the feeling of looking accomplished and still feeling like we have to lose weight or dress differently. She felt it, too, but she overcame it. I just wanted to share the speech with you.

"It's hard to accept being a role model for women when you're trying to lose weight," Davis said. "But it's true. I've always discovered the heart of my characters, I guess, by asking, 'Why?' When I was handed Annalise Keating [on "Murder"], I said, 'She's sexy, she's mysterious,' you know? I'm used to playing women where I've got to gain 40 pounds and wear an apron, so I said, 'Oh God, I've got to lose weight. I've got to learn how to walk like Kerry Washington in heels. You know, I gotta lose my belly.'

"And then I asked myself, 'Well, why do I have to do all of that?' I truly believe that the privilege of a lifetime is being who you are, and I just recently embraced that at 51." She continued: "I think my strongest power is that at 10 o'clock every Thursday night, I want you to come into my world. I am not going to come into yours. You come into my world and you sit with me, my size, my hue, my age, and you sit and you experience. And I think that's the only power I have as an artist. So I thank you for this award. And I do see her. Just like I see me."

Viola Davis, you are awesome. We all are.

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Oh, tasty night

On the night before Christmas, expect rare and delicious offerings from restaurants around the city.

Full animal feasts will be available at Inman Square's BISq. ISABEL ROEDER

things to do

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
rachel.raczka@metro.us

Wine down

Tucked away in the Boston Harbor Hotel, Meritage chef Daniel Bruce offers a four-course prix fixe available on both Christmas Eve and Day. Highlights include pan roasted American red snapper with Tahitian coconut curry, Cabernet-braised short ribs with truffle oil and Tuscan kale and the world's fanciest rendition of "ants on a log." Each course will be paired by sommelier Nicholas Daddona for $195, or without pairings for $125.
Dec. 24-25, 4-9 p.m., reservations recommended, meritagetherestaurant.com

Get lit

Chef Jody Adams and her team's latest Porto in Back Bay will celebrate their first Christmas Eve in the a.m., with a deluxe brunch made with hungry (and honestly, pretty last minute) shoppers in mind. On the menu: pomegranate-halva cinnamon buns, baked French toast with plump-poppy seed jam and the Egg Nog Flip — a rye-laced take on the classic, served flaming, table side.
Dec. 24, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., reservations recommended, porto-boston.com

Sharing is caring

Chef Andy Husbands will host his annual Southern Christmas Eve dinner at his South End mainstay, Tremont 647. You can nosh on cider-brined turkey, house-made ham steaks or buttermilk fried chicken with three chili gravy along with sides served family style, like brown sugar-cayenne sweet potatoes and pimento cheese casserole. Selections are served a la cart but it's really recommended (by us) to bring friends so you can get a lil of each.
Dec. 24, 5-10:30 p.m., reservations recommended, tremont647.com

Southern comfort

Bergamot has an $85 three-course prix fixe with platters of roast halibut with lobster and charred octopus, truffled Parmesan gnocchi and stuffed quail with dirty rice, okra and chicken jus caramel. Top it off with candy cap creme brulee with port fig jam or winter citrus tarts with chocolate sorbet.
Dec. 24, 5-8 p.m., reservations recommended, bergamotrestaurant.com

Feast with the fishes

Feast of the Seven Fishes is prevalent in the prix fixe category, but none sound quite as exciting as Kathy Sidell's spread at Saltie Girl. The $128 per head dinner includes lobster puttanesca, a fried fisherman's box (sweet ebi, local cod, Nantucket scallops, squid!), baked clam stuffies and (of course) marinated white anchovies on toast with smoked tomatoes and salsa verde. The menu comes with a wine pairing for $165.
Dec. 24, 8 p.m., reservations required, saltiefeast.eventbright.com

Enjoy a modern twist on the traditional Feast of the Seven Fishes at Back Bay hot spot Saltie Girl. PROVIDED

Make it wholesome

BISq in Inman will offer a $70 whole animal feast, with the choice of suckling pig, roast chicken, fish or rib eye and lamb leg. (Vegetarian grain options also available.) Servings will be made-to-order based on party size and include choice of sides (shishito peppers, poached and roasted beets, smashed potatoes); apps (beef heart tacos, ceviche with quinoa, roast mushroom and arugula salad); and dessert.
Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m., reservations recommended, 1071 Cambridge St., Cambridge, bisqcambridge.com

EAT LIKE AN INSIDER

This chef knows allllll the goods on afterhours eats. ALL PHOTOS PAT PIASECKI

When some seriously beloved Boston restaurant fixtures get together for a brand-new project just outside city limits, you'd better believe we're getting a rental car. At the Paddle Inn (27 State St., Paddle innsurf.com) in Newburyport, where Suzi Maitland and members of the stellar Trina's team have opened a brand-new concept with friendly, frisky comfort food and easy-going renditions of tiki classics. Amesbury resident Maitland, who serves as executive chef for Paddle Inn (as well as Parlor Sports and Trina's), shares her favorite spots to snag a barstool for chicken parm, the tastiest under $5 meal we've heard so far and the ultimate Instagram pic to grab.

Best late night meal?

Peach Farm in Chinatown — the steamed pea pods are my favorite thing in the whole world. We always overorder. The Cashew Chicken is amazing. And you can't not order Crab Rangoon. *4 Tyler St., peachfarmboston.com*

The Paddle Inn

Best meal under $5?

The potato knish at Mamaleh's. They're $4 and so filling! Perfect on a really cold winter day. *One Kendall Square, Cambridge, mamalehs.com*

Best foodie gem?

The East Side Grille on Cambridge Street is totally tucked away. It's a mom and pop owned bar. Their portions are huge and the chicken parm is my absolute favorite. *561 Cambridge St., East Cambridge, eastside barandgrille.com*

Best place to dine alone?

In the weeks leading up to The Paddle Inn opening in Newburyport, I spent many a night at Brine right next door. It's such a classic New England oyster bar. We love our neighbors! *25 State St., Newburyport, brineoyster.com*

Place you recommend for out-of-towners?

No hesitation: Myers + Chang. It's where I send everyone. It's got a big town feel and big flavors. Fun, loud and delicious! *1145 Washington St., Boston, myersandchang.com*

Best place to catch up with friends?

I'm really lucky that I get to work with all my best friends — and they all happen to work at Trina's Starlite Lounge. *3 Beacon St., Somerville, trinastarlitelounge.com*

Most Instagrammable dish in town?

Waypoint's Market Vegetable Roast was insanely beautiful. I want one right now. *1030 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, waypointharvard.com* RACHEL RACZKA

New venue, same mission

The Christmas Cavalcade for the Homeless moves into new digs.

LINDA LABAN
@MetroBOS
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The Christmas Cavalcade for the Homeless has a new home this season. The annual musical benefit for the Somerville Homeless Coalition, led by the Chandler Travis Philharmonic, moves to Somerville's Once Ballroom on Dec. 21. Hitherto, the event was housed in Davis Square's now-defunct Johnny D's. (RIP.)

"Carla [DeLellis] is still a big supporter of this and the Somerville Homeless Coalition," Chandler Travis says of Johnny D's then-owner. "We go back a long way. I remember when they first started having music there, so that dates me," chuckles the Cape Cod-based Boston music scene veteran, best known for the '80s pop group The Incredible Casuals.

Besides the nine-member Philharmonic's Dixieland jazz spliced classic pop, this year's cavalcade numbers Jennifer Kimball, Shaun Wortis, Merrie Amsterburg and Mike Gent. Travis shares his insights.

What Philharmonic Christmas songs are you excited to perform?
We're rehearsing a classic: "In the Bleak Midwinter" — our female harmonizers sing that. It's such a pretty song. During rehearsal, I get them to do it over again, even though they get it all right the first time. I just adore it.

You mark the 20th anniversary of the Philharmonic's existence with a new album, "Waving Kissyhead, Vol. 2 & 1," next February. Where did the name come from?
Technically, our 20th anniversary is in 2016, but we forgot to celebrate until now. The title's from a piece of art my sometime lyricist David Greenberger sent to me. It's a great title, great picture. It's the CD cover.

Is this a double-disc album?
We put out an online-only EP and there is nothing more useless and insignificant than an online-only EP. So we added it to the album. It came out first, but it's at the end, so that's why it's Vol. 2 and then 1. It's logical. I wouldn't want people to accuse me of whimsicality.

Are you a fan of Christmas?
It is the most manic depressive holiday of them all; it's completely bipolar, and completely neurotic. Even Christmas movies seem to be about people hitting rock bottom before something or someone turns them around. But I find it so endearing that people are dragging around the mall trying to find that something to somehow make someone feel good. It's the biggest mood swing holiday, but, hey, count me in.

If you go

12th Annual Boston Christmas Cavalcade for the Homeless
Dec. 21, 7 p.m.
Once Ballroom
156 Highland Ave., Somerville
$20 advance/ $25 at the door, oncesomerville.com

Last year's marked the final round at Johnny D's in Davis Square. PROVIDED

YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

DANCE

A Palo Seco

This New York-based Flamenco company returns to Boston. Artistic director and dancer Rebeca Tomas, like many exponents of traditional dance forms, seeks to celebrate flamenco tradition while pursuing new directions for it. It's not unusual, for instance, for her performances to lack guitar, subsisting only on percussion and dance—a more stripped-down direct appeal to the audience's attention in an endlessly distracted age.
Dec. 16, 8 p.m.
Multicultural Arts Center, 41 2nd St., Cambridge
$35-$40, http://bit.ly/2hFAY6D

Nut/Cracked

Public Displays of Motion, led by Peter DiMuro, performs the Bang Group's parody/deconstruction of "The Nutcracker," taking advantage of Tchaikovsky's original score as well as Duke Ellington's jazz version, and employing a very wide range of dance styles. It's also full of silliness and a little bit of sauciness — perfect for folks bored with the same old "holiday classic."
Dec. 15 through 18
BCA Plaza Black Box
539 Tremont St.
$33, bostontheatrescene.com

THEATER

The Cherry Orchard

BU students perform this work by Anton Chekov, about an aristocratic family whose wealth has diminished. Now they're facing the loss of their estate as well. Like Lord Grantham on "Downton Abbey," they recoil at pragmatic suggestions that might help them save their home — like cutting down their beloved cherry orchard. Will they really choose, in the end, to cling to a fantasy?
Through Dec. 18
Lane-Comely Studio 210, Boston University, 264 Huntington Ave.
$12, bostontheatrescene.com

MOVIES

'Star Wars' Viewing Party

Geek out with fellow geeks over the upcoming Star Wars film at this get-together. Trident will be playing all the films on the upstairs TV and featuring a "Star Wars"-themed menu, and you can play "Star Wars" games and win some TBA prizes.
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Trident Booksellers and Café
338 Newbury St.
Free, http://bit.ly/2gRSMvr

THEATER

Journey to the West

Central Square Theater usually puts on its celebrated "Arabian Nights" around this time, but instead they'll bring a family-friendly adaptation of the Chinese novel about a monk who journeys to India in search of enlightenment.
Through December 31, Central Square Theater, 450 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, $16-$67, centralsquaretheater.org

A family-friendly take on "Journey to the West." A.R. SINCLAIR PHOTOGRAPHY

Grrl Haus Cinema

This is stuffed-to-the-gills sampler of short films and video art pieces in a variety of genres, with only one thing in common: they're all made by women. Oh, and they're all low budget/DIY productions. It's a valuable corrective in an ostensibly progressive art world where women remain underrepresented, but it's also just a badass collection of films.
December 19, 7:30 p.m.
Brattle Theater, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge
$10, brattlefilm.org

COMEDY

Corey Rodrigues

This local comic, founder of Wicked Wednesdays at the Beantown Comedy Vault, seems primed for national breakout status at some point. His training at Improv Asylum lends his standup a theatrical feel, with lots of unexpected voices.
Dec. 16 and 17
Nick's Comedy Stop, 100 Warrenton St., Boston
$20, http://bit.ly/2glaaos

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A GUIDE TO GIVING A (GUILT) GIFT

ALISON ZEIDMAN (@ALISONLZEIDMAN); ILLUSTRATION BY NANCY SAMILOW

Do you know this person?

YES

Do you like this person?

YES

Oh, picking out the right gift should be easy, then. You don't need our help.

NO

Is it Bob from work, that guy who always repeats what you say in meetings as if he's adding some totally new idea?

YES

Screw Bob. You don't need to get that guy a gift.

Is it a boyfriend/girlfriend you're waiting to break up with until after the holidays are over?

YES

Just break up with them now. Trust us.

Is it your teenage cousin who skipped your grandmother's funeral to play in a video-game tournament?

YES

Regift the licorice-scented candle Grandma gave you last year.

Is it a Facebook friend you've never met in real life who posted a heartfelt holiday message on your wall, and you feel obligated to reciprocate?

YES

A .gif is the greatest gift.

BARELY

Is it the guy who makes your sandwiches at the bodega?

YES

Are the sandwiches good?

Oh my God, the best! I don't know what he puts in the mayo, but it has this extra little kick that really unifies the flavors of the B, L and T, while at the same time adding something totally new and unexpected.

Tip a little bit extra for the holidays. Then name your firstborn child after him.

Is it a Tinder date who made plans with you for the day after Christmas?

YES

You always do this. You come on way too strong at the beginning, and it freaks them out. If you absolutely have to give a gift, make it something simple, like a candy cane. NO CARD.

MEH

Tip a little bit extra for the holidays. Then go find a new bodega.

NO

So why are you getting them a gift? Is this a prank?

YES

Make a donation to their least favorite charity, in their name.

NO

Wow. So you're just a really good person trying to help your fellow man this time of year?

YES

Make a donation to your favorite charity.

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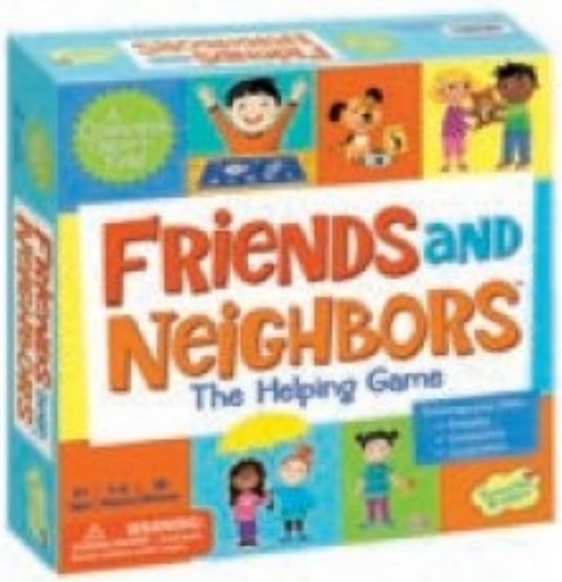

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The prettiest play groceries

Land of Nod fridge play food, **$29, landofnod.com**

For when the hoop's frozen over

Westminster Toys "Hoop Shoot" basketball play set, **$37.99, nordstrom.com**

And you thought Jenga was tricky

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Hottest toys of 2016

This year's must-haves, include coding games, life-like pups, a Nintendo reboot and even hatching creatures. SARA FEINSTEIN

The one person you do not want to disappoint during the holidays is the littlest one in your life. But tots can also be the easiest to please. To avoid potential tears, temper tantrums and looks that pronounce you a failure, we hit up Toys "R" Us spokeswoman Candace Disler to help us win Christmas.

Power Wheels Wild Thing

This battery-powered vehicle comes in both pink and orange, with two joystick steering controls that allow riders to shift forward, into reverse, and even spin 360 degrees. "It's for the adventure seeking kid — boy or girl — and the adults living vicariously through them," says Disler. **$279.99**

Nintendo NES Classic Edition

Perhaps one of the most nostalgic gaming consoles ever, the Nintendo Entertainment System is back in a miniaturized version. Compatible with the Virtual Console games on the Wii U system, the NES also comes preloaded with 30 classic games, including "The Legend of Zelda," "Super Mario Bros. 3" and "Mega Man 2." **$59.99**

Fisher-Price Think & Learn Code-a-Pillar

"This year we're definitely seeing that customers, parents and gift-givers alike are really maximizing their play value by choosing toys that are both fun, but also offer a learning aspect as well," says Disler. Furthering the spirit of education, this interactive toy challenges children to configure the critter in any way they choose and watch as different combinations send the toy in various directions. **$42.99**

Little Live Pets Snuggles My Dream Puppy

For the no-mess parents who aren't ready to commit to an actual pet, Snuggles is the perfect alternative. The fluffy and interactive puppy moves, feels and responds just like a real dog. There's even an adoption certificate to make Snuggles an official part of your family. **$59.99**

Hatchimals

With proper nurturing, these magical creatures hatch right out of their shell and come to life. Kids can raise the animal through three stages — from baby, to toddler, to kid — and watch as they grow up to talk, dance, play games and even repeat after you in their own voice. **$69.99**

To see the rest of the list, visit **metro.us**

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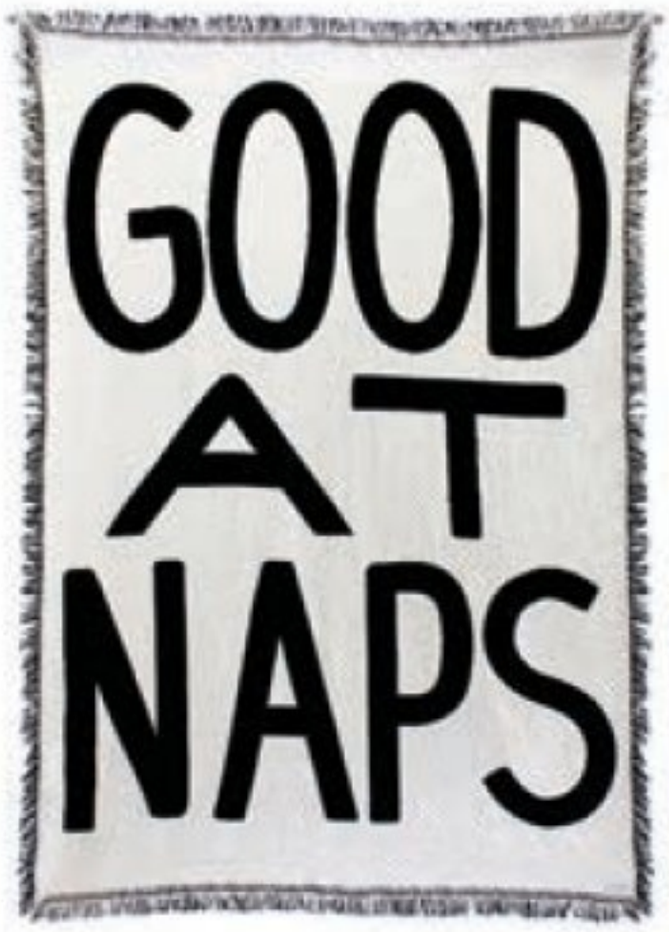
Continued on page 24



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Continued from page 23

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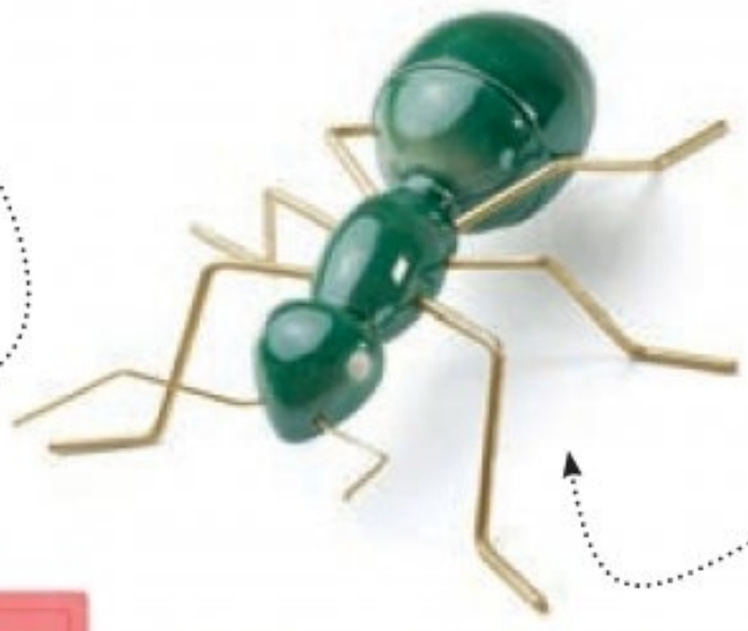

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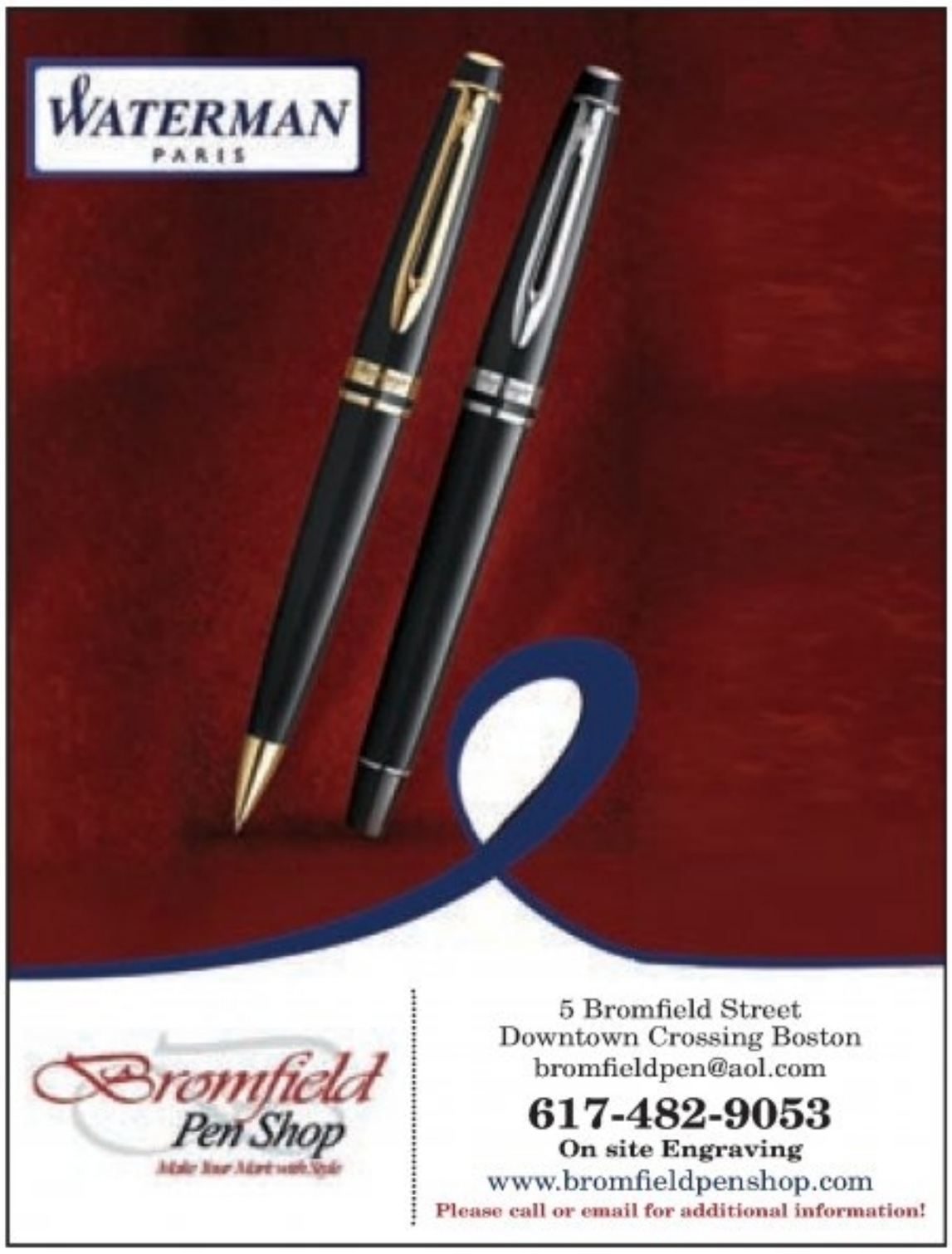

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Snow doesn't stop the fun

Saranac Lake Winter Carnival ROB MADEO

Winter brings tons of festivals across the country.

Snow-covered mountains and frozen lakes remain part of the landscape well past New Year's in northern regions across the continent, and residents who live in chilly locales opt to venture out to enjoy the weather rather than hole up indoors. Festivals and carnivals featuring ice sculptures, sled dog races, sleigh rides and more give travelers a chance to join locals in fun annual traditions.

Plunge Fest

There are polar bear plunges — where people dive into frigid water in the middle of winter — all over the country, but Plungefest in Annapolis, Maryland, is the biggest of all. Attracting more than 25,000 plungers and spectators, this is the coolest way to raise money for charity. With proceeds benefitting Special Olympics Maryland, you've got a great excuse to take a dip in the Chesapeake Bay. If you're not into frostbite, there's also a carnival, giant sand sculptures and live music to keep you entertained.

Fur Rendezvous

Winter can run long in Anchorage, with extra months of snow and freezing temperatures. That's exactly why the first Fur Rendezvous was initiated back in 1935, to break up those long, cold winter months with sports, games and a torchlight parade. Today, "rondy" has grown into a 10-day celebration of Alaskan life, featuring men's snowshoe softball, a grand prix auto race, a "running of the reindeer" event, a native arts market and a "blanket toss" — a native Alaskan tradition in which a person is tossed from a blanket high into the air to scan the ocean for whales. The cornerstone of the festival is the world championship sled dog race, which attracts teams of sled dogs and mushers from all over the world.

Ouray Ice Climbing Festival

The biggest ice climbing festival in North America takes place every January in southwestern Colorado, in the small town of Ouray. Even if you have no interest in climbing, the park is a must-see with jaw-dropping walls of blue ice lining the rugged Uncompahgre Gorge. This year's Ouray Ice Climbing Festival events include climbing competitions, demonstrations, clinics, presentations, films, and a gear expo. Beginners can try ice climbing on the 30-foot practice wall, known by locals as the Kids' Wall.

Ouray Ice Climbing Festival GETTY IMAGES

Saranac Lake Winter Carnival

What began as an attempt to break up the monotony of winter in New York's Adirondack wilderness has evolved into the longest-running event of its kind in the eastern U.S. The Saranac Lake Winter Carnival boasts run-of-the-mill winter sports like nordic skiing and ice-skating, but also hosts off-the-wall competitions like ultimate arctic frisbee and a women's frying pan toss. Saranac Lake's annual themed parade (this year's is "celtic carnival") is also not to be missed, but perhaps the biggest draw is the famed ice palace— a mammoth structure made with anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 ice blocks, weighing up to 800 pounds each.

Snowfest

Every spring for more than 30 years, the resorts on the north (and now west) side of Lake Tahoe in Nevada come together to throw a 10-day winter sports extravaganza. Far from childhood summer vacation memories on the lake, the North Lake Tahoe Snowfest features an icy plunge into the largest alpine lake in North America. Locals love the Tahoe Donner Ididarun, in which dogs pull covered sleds across a snow-covered course.

Insider tip:
Don't miss Rahlves Banzai Tour, a rip-roaring ski/boarder-cross event created by former Olympian Daron Rahlves.

Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival

The Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival in Colorado has a true Western flavor, with horses as the stars of the carnival's happenings along the town's main street. There are shovel races — participants sit on shovels pulled by horses — and an event in which skiers hang onto a lasso held by a cowboy on horseback. On the mountains outside town, there's everything from ski jumping competitions to slalom races. There's also a biathlon that involves athletes dressed in vintage fur trapper's clothing who ski and simultaneously shoot black powder muzzleloaders.

Insider tip:
Don't miss the opening ceremony with the "lighted man"—a skier who slaloms down a dark mountain with roman candles and rockets shooting from his costume.

St. Paul Winter Carnival

Minnesota claims the oldest and largest winter festival in the U.S. In 1885, a New York Times reporter suggested that St. Paul was too cold for human habitation, and to prove him wrong the city held its first festival the following year. The carnival is best known for the immense ice castle that's historically been its centerpiece; today, events

also includes snow and ice sculptures, juried art shows, outdoor concerts, sled dog races and autonomous snowplow competitions, where inventors attempt to clear a snowy path with their robotic snowplows.

Whitefish Winter Carnival

Legend has it that Ullr, the Nordic god of snow, settled in northwest Montana, making his home on Big Mountain. But alas, there was no peace for Ullr and his queen, as they encountered a group of unruly yetis set upon kidnapping the queen. Luckily Ullr prevailed, and to pay homage to their winter king, the people of Whitefish created the Whitefish Winter Carnival, where they celebrate all things winter by parading down Main Street on skis, crafting ice sculptures and even skijoring (where skiers are towed behind horses through a race course). But beware: A band of rogue yetis remains, perpetrating pranks and intent on kidnapping the snow queen.

St. Paul Winter Carnival DARRIN JOHNSON

Insider tip:

It's free to spectate the skijoring, or better yet, enter the novice class and give it a try.

Frozen Dead Guy Day

Grandpa Bredo Morstoel may have died of a heart condition in 1989, but that doesn't stop him from living on (cryogenically, at least) in the artsy Rocky Mountain town of Nederland. Packed in 1,600 pounds of dry ice and kept cool at a steady 60 degrees, Grandpa Bredo is the inspiration behind the aptly named — if slightly morbid — Frozen Dead Guy Days event. Each winter, the Colorado town celebrates good ole gramps with coffin races, a parade of hearses, a frozen T-shirt contest, snow "beach" volleyball and other offbeat cold-weather activities.

Winterskol

Colorado's popular Winterskol celebration is one of the best times to visit Aspen. The Fat Bike Race pits competitors riding bikes with extra-wide tires known as fatbikes against each other on a slippery, snow-covered course. As always, the Soupskol contest encourages Aspen's world-class restaurants to duke it out over who can make the best soup.

Insider tip:
Winterskol is the only time Aspen offers night skiing, thanks to torches and fireworks lighting up the evening sky.

Sun Valley Nordic Festival

Although Sun Valley, Idaho, is known for having the world's first chairlift, there's no lifts needed at this festival. Events like "town sprints" (cross country skiing relays through town) and the famous Boulder Mountain Tour (a 21-mile Nordic race) take place on over 124 miles of groomed Nordic trails throughout the beautiful valley.

International Snow Sculpture Championship

For decades, snow-sculpting teams from all over the globe have descended on the ski resort town of Breckenridge, Colorado, to vie for top honors. Teams spend five days turning giant blocks of snow into art, creating an otherworldly outdoor gallery in the parking lot of the Riverwalk Center, just off the downtown main drag. Visitors are welcome to attend the International Snow Sculpture Championships at any point in the process; judging happens Jan. 25.

Insider tip:
The final evening of competition (Jan. 24) makes for the most memorable viewing as artists pull all-nighters perfecting their nearly completed masterpieces.

Stowe Winter Carnival

The Stowe Winter Carnival in Vermont charmingly combines traditional snow sport competitions with one-of-a-kind events. All the typical favorites are there, like downhill ski races, ice hockey games and a national ice carving competition, along with some unexpected surprises, like a snow volleyball tournament and snow golf. Children in Stowe appreciate the Kids Karnival, and adults cut loose to live music and dance parties in the evenings.

Insider tip:
Stowe is known as the "ski capital of the east" thanks to its annual snowfall average of 22 feet and location at the base of Mount Mansfield, the highest mountain in Vermont, at 4,395 feet.

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When dogs fly

That's one high-flying pup. ALL PHOTOS JULIA CHRISTIE

Photographer Julia Christie captures funny portraits of pooches in midair.

DANIEL CASILLAS
MWN
letters@metro.us

Pictures of dogs are often fun and adorable, but have you ever imagined photographed flying puppies? German photographer Julia Christe did. She has recently published a book, "Flying Dogs," in which she managed to capture funny moments of dogs in mid-flight. By the way, no puppies were injured during the photo shoot. Moreover, she says, most of them enjoyed the experience.

Why have you featured flying dogs in your book?
My idea of the flying dogs and the very first series started in 2007 when I was still in school. I was inspired by seeing photos of my dog Flinn in midair. He loved Frisbees and would jump after them with abandon, flying up and not caring about where (or even if) he would ever land. A few years later, I got the opportunity to produce a set of flying dogs photos for a vet product. The photos ended up going viral. Then I was lucky enough to get a book deal, which meant photographing a lot more flying dogs and sharing them with more dog lovers.

Did the dogs actually enjoy the photo shoots?
Some absolutely loved it, others didn't. Most dogs that have an owner they trust aren't nervous, even in this odd situation. If a dog showed signs of stress, I quit right away.

But overall, many of the dogs had fun jumping back on their owners lap again and again. And of course, some dogs love being the center of attention, so they enjoyed having all eyes on them.

Was it difficult to photograph the dogs flying?
It took a lot of experimentation. In the end, I find that having the owners or an assistant hold them at a certain height, depending on the dog's size, and release them onto a well-padded mattress, allowed me to closely monitor the area where I would shoot.

The first photo was usually the best because the dogs would be surprised.

Was it fun for you?
Yes it was! While the dogs' reactions are the funniest, I also enjoy seeing the reactions of their owners. Sometimes they're just as surprised as the dogs when they see them airborne, and they laugh the most at their funny puppies.

Just another day on the set for Julia Christie.

Why the 11-2, conference-leading Patriots are still being underrated

The best team in the NFL still isn't getting its due.

LUKE MILLER
@LukeFM7
sports@metro.us

If only Tom Brady had been eligible to play all 16 games this season, he'd probably have a big lead in the race for NFL MVP. GETTY IMAGES

Following the Cowboys second loss to the Giants, the Patriots have been returned to their regularly scheduled programming spot atop most of the nation's various NFL power rankings. But could this team still be underrated? Or rather, under-covered?

Between Tom Brady's season-opening suspension and the storylines of teams for whom success is much rarer than the Patriots (ahem, Oakland) New England's steady chug towards the number one seed in the AFC has gone rather by the wayside. If that's the case, what's going partially unnoticed is the Patriots most dominating season since the ultimately ill-fated 2007 team that ran (but mostly passed) through the regular season undefeated. Perhaps after their game on Monday night against the Ravens the nation's eyes will start paying more attention.

The Patriots lead the league with a plus-155 point differential. At 39, Tom Brady is lighting up the league. He's averaging 8.5 yards per attempt, a full yard higher than any season since 2011. His quarterback rating, 113.6, and completion percentage, 68.5, are higher than any season save 2007. He's thrown 22 touchdowns to just two interceptions, the best ratio of his career. And finally, Brady is coming off a 400 yard performance against the AFC's now second ranked defense. (Baltimore had allowed the fewest points through 12 games; now it is the Patriots that have allowed the fewest through 13.)

In case you didn't notice (or aren't playing fantasy football) he did it without Rob Gronkowski. Gronk has only started six games for the Patriots this season and is done for the year. The Patriots most dangerous weapon and leading receiver of the past two years has only accounted for three touchdowns this season after finding paydirt 23 times over 2014 and 2015. Those three opening games the Patriots won without Brady? Gronk didn't catch a pass in any of them either.

This team, missing its best two offensive players, shocked the Cardinals on opening night in Arizona to start their season of decline, beat the Dolphins, who now look like a potential playoff team, and blanked the AFC South-leading Texans on national TV, 27-0.

LeGarrette Blount is spearheading a rushing attack the likes of which hasn't been featured since Corey Dillon's first season in New England. Blount has already topped 1,000 yards (with 1,029, he is fifth in the NFL), the first Patriots running back to do so since Stevan Ridley hit the mark in 2012. His 14 touchdowns lead the league. He's only getting stronger, averaging 5.3 yards per carry over the Patriots current four game win streak, which, by the way, coincides with Dion Lewis' return to the lineup.

This week they'll have their opportunity for revenge for last year's playoff loss to the Broncos. And when they win, in Denver, no one will bat an eye. It's what we expect. This is a team that we all fully expected to see winning in September with Julian Edelman at quarterback. It's hard to exceed those expectations.

NBA trade rumors: Celtics tied to big names Anthony Davis, DeMarcus Cousins

You can't peruse the subject of NBA trade rumors without finding a list a mile long of potential Celtics fits on teams looking to make a move.

Among these has been superstar center DeMarcus Cousins, who many believe will be shipped out of Sacramento before the trade deadline. Sources as viable as NESN and radio host Adam Kaufman have said that the potential of a trade sending Cousins to Boston "has traction." Kaufman says his source is not the Celtics or the Kings, so one might be led to believe a third team was approached about a deal — a three-way trade — or that the rumor is a well-known potential blockbuster move.

Boston has a slew of attractive pieces, including a few young players and likely high draft picks to make a trade possible and it is no secret Danny Ainge has wanted to bring in a true superstar (so close with Kevin Durant).

If Boogie isn't in the wings, a few other big names ranging from Brooklyn's Brook Lopez to New Orleans' Anthony Davis are also amid recent rumors.

With the Celtics picking up the quality of their play recently, a run at a 2-seed in the East could be made more probable with a trade deadline addition. And, in a seven-game series with the defending champions from Cleveland, anything can happen.

Expect the rumor mill to get even more hot and ridiculous as the February deadline approached. EVAN MACY

The NBA trade deadline isn't for two months, but the rumor mill is not waiting. GETTY IMAGES

HIGH ON POWELL, HILL, SOUND ALARM ON INGRAM

OPINION

BILL DUBIEL

Are you still alive in the playoffs? Be sure to check out Rotoballer.com's Fantasy Football Waiver Wire Tool for up-to-the-hour waiver wire advice and ideas, and to follow me @Roto_Dubs for quick-hitting news and analysis.

Bilal Powell has been a good bet to find the end zone recently. GETTY IMAGES

Bet on Bilal

Once Matt Forte exited the Jets' Week 14 win over the 49ers, Bilal Powell absolutely took over. The dynamic running back exploded for 145 yards and two touchdowns on 29 carries, and chipped in 34 yards on five receptions. It was revealed after the game that Matt Forte would be going for an MRI to discover if there is any damage in his knee, and if he's inactive you can bet on Powell to answer the call. With Forte out he's an RB2, and even if Forte suits up he'll likely be limited, keeping Powell in the flex conversation.

Tyreek the freak

Jeremy Maclin is no more. All-purpose weapon Tyreek Hill is the new top dog on perhaps the least-talked about playoff team. Hill has been producing in all aspects of the offense and special teams, posting 20 catches and two touchdowns over his last three weeks while adding in a rushing touchdown and a punt return touchdown. With that kind of scoring potential in three different facets of the game, Hill is a must-start in the fantasy playoffs.

No Max, no Mark

Mark Ingram has now sputtered in three of his last four games, and has been particularly dreadful in his last two. He was without Pro Bowl center Max Unger in Week 14, and it showed — he gained just 23 total yards on nine touches, including a miserable 7-14-0 rushing line. His incompetence brought the return of his timeshare with Tim Hightower, who outgained Ingram with two fewer touches. With so much uncertainty in the mix and the Saints offense sputtering, it's impossible to trust Ingram in a matchup with the Arizona Cardinals in Week 15.

Sleepers of the week

Each week we will identify three players worth taking a shot on in deeper leagues.

Cameron Brate, TE, Tampa Bay Buccaneers – Brate has at least four catches and five targets in five of his last six games, and is the clear second option behind Mike Evans. He'll have his opportunities against the Cowboys.

Kenneth Dixon, RB, Baltimore Ravens – The committee has officially shifted — Dixon is the top dog in Baltimore's backfield. He's a low-end RB2 in Week 15.

Robby Anderson, WR, New York Jets – For whatever reason, Anderson is rookie QB Bryce Petty's favorite target. With 23 targets in his last two games, Anderson's volume makes him flex-worthy in deeper leagues.

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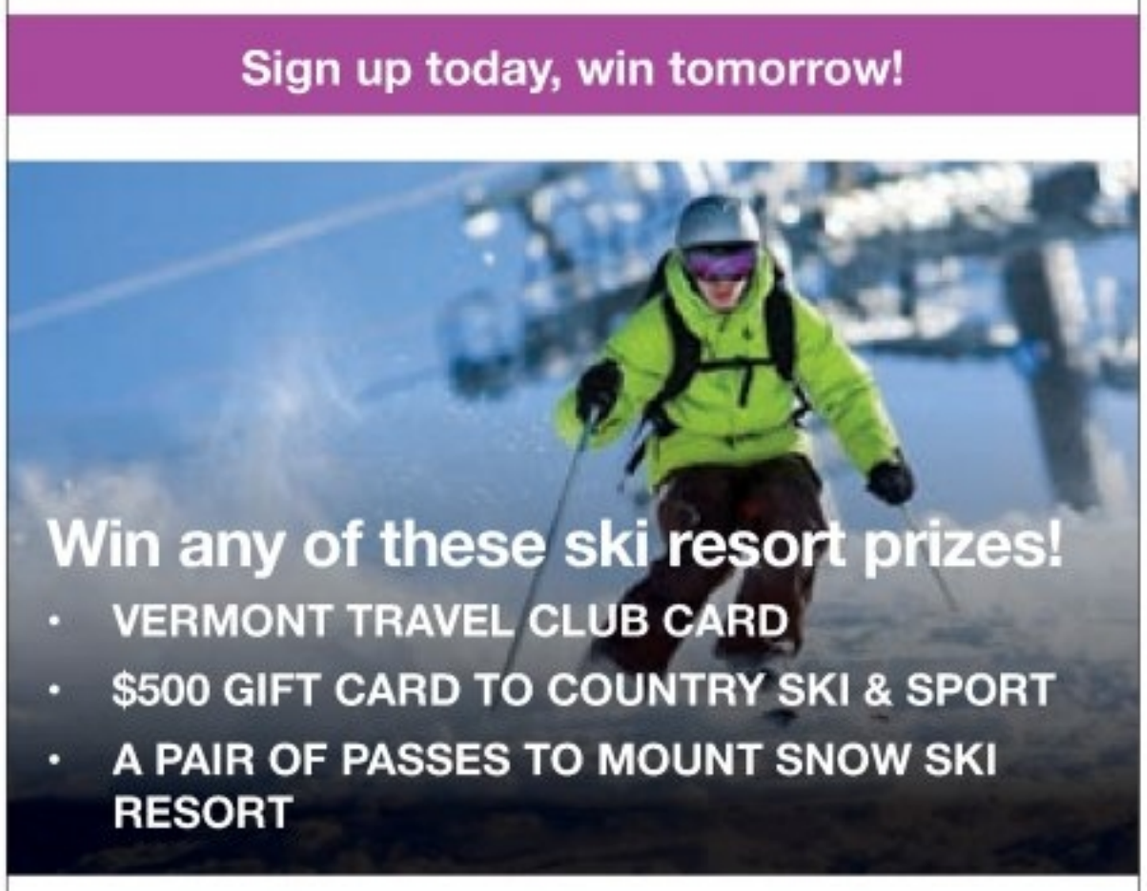

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Duck and cover

The Bruins have been a bit inconsistent of late, and will have a tough test when they return home from their battle with Pittsburgh Thursday morning and prepare to host the Ducks Thursday night, at 7:30 on NESN. Anaheim is in second in the Pacific and will have an extra days rest before Thursday's tilt. GETTY IMAGES

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LEGAL NOTICES

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by John Farley and Shanta Simmons Farley to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for, Accredited Home Lenders, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated June 4, 2004 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 34727, Page 025 subsequently assigned to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Accredited Mortgage Loan Trust 2004-3 Asset Backed Notes by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for, Accredited Home Lenders, Inc., its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 48817, Page 112; of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on December 22, 2016 at 3 Akron Place, Boston (District of Roxbury), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

A parcel of land located in Boston, County of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts with a street location of 3 Akron Place Roxbury, MA 02119 currently owned by Yun Ju Choi and more fully described in hte vesting document dated, September 28, 2000, recorded on Septemper 28, 2000 in Book 25398 Page 324, and designated as metes and bounds property. Permanent Parcel Number: 120133400 Yun Ju Choi 3 Akron Place, Roxbury, MA 02119 For title, see Deed, recorded herewith

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, building and zoning laws, liens, attorney's fees and costs pursuant to M.G.L.Ch.183A, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS ($5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms if any, to be announced at the sale.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Accredited Mortgage Loan Trust 2004-3 Asset-Backed Notes

Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS MORAN PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
15-007347

December 1, 2016, December 8, 2016 and December 15, 2016

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Walter Frey to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for, American Home Mortgage, its successors and assigns, dated November 7, 2006 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 40735, Page 200 subsequently assigned to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for American Home Mortgage Asset Trust 2007-1, Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2007-1 by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 50604, Page 288;of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on December 29, 2016 at 650 Metropolitan Avenue, Unit #6, Boston (Hyde Park), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage,

TO WIT: The Unit known as Unit 6 (the "Unit") of 650 Metropolitan Avenue Condominium, a Condominium situated at 650 Metropolitan Avenue, Hyde Park (Boston), Suffolk County, Massachusetts, a condominium established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A by Master Deed dated November 14, 2005 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 33469, Page 1 ("Master Deed"), which Unit is shown on the floor plans of the Building filed simultaneously with said Master Deed to which is affixed a verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Section 9 of said Chapter 183A. Said Unit is conveyed together with an undivided 16.6666% percent interest in the common areas and facilities of the Property described in said Master Deed ("Common Elements") attributable to the Unit and in 650 Metropolitan Avenue Condominium Trust (the "Condominium Trust") which is recorded with said Deeds in Book 33469, Page 17. Post Office Address of the Unit: 650 Metropolitan Avenue, Unit 6, Hyde Park, MA For title see Deed recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 38674, Page 142. 38674/142

Upon information and belief the legal description attached to the mortgage should have stated the Master Deed being recorded in Book 38469 Page 1.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, building and zoning laws, liens, attorney's fees and costs pursuant to M.G.L.Ch.183A, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS ($5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms if any, to be announced at the sale.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company,
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Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2007-1
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
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December 8, 2016, December 15, 2016 and December 22, 2016

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **Michael Riley** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act:, 50 U.S.C. c.50 §3901 *et seq:*

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Boston (Dorchester)**, numbered **69 Monadnock Street**, given by **Michael Riley** to **Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Sovereign Bank, its successors and assigns**, dated **April 1, 2009**, and recorded with the **Suffolk County Registry of Deeds** in Book **44762**, Page **226**, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **January 16, 2017** or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of this Court on November 29, 2016

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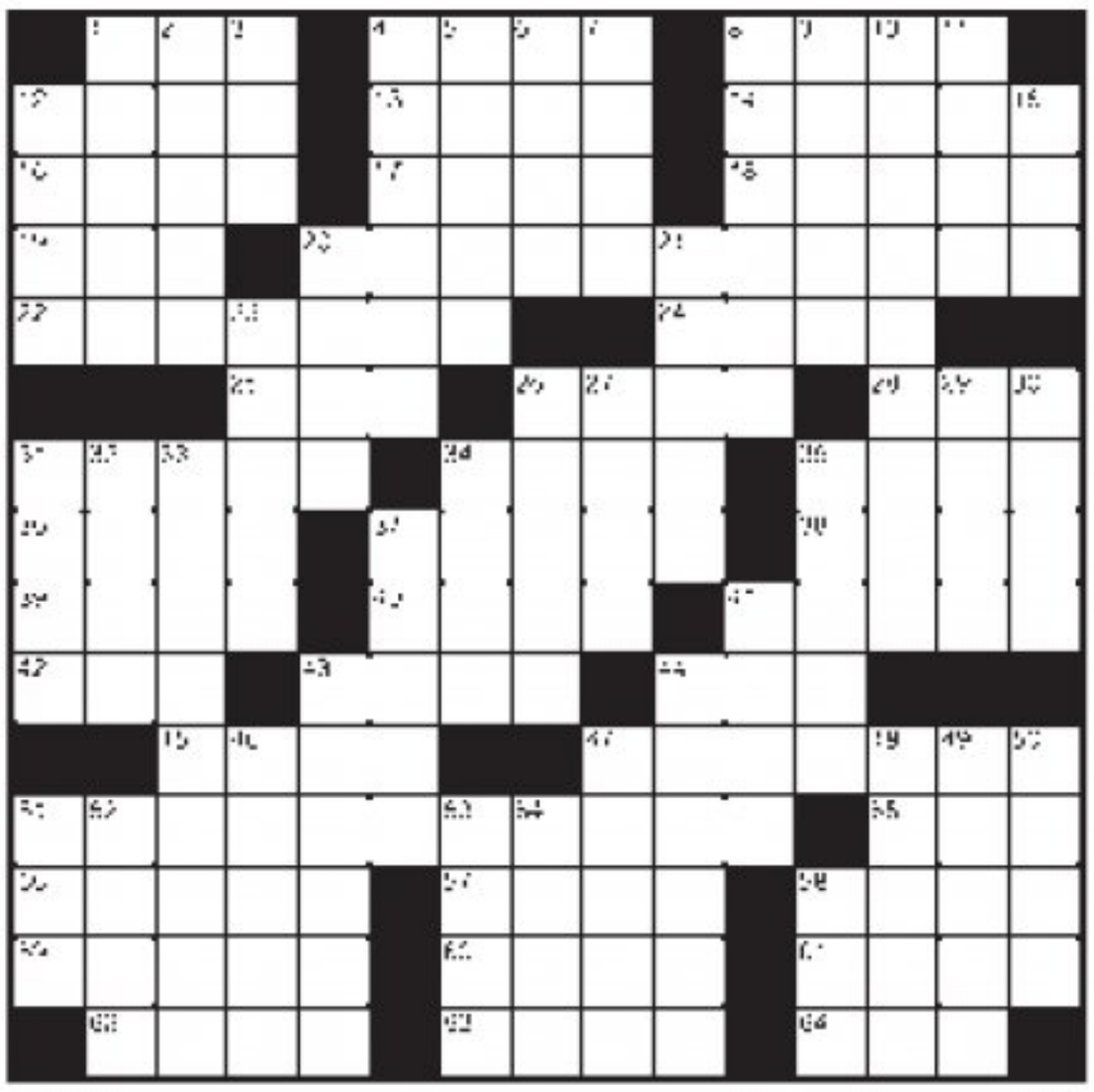
62 On its way
63 Vets' concern
64 Buy at auction

Down

1 Winter warmer
2 Bread base
3 – Alamos
4 Mountain refrains
5 Copper and zinc
6 Throng
7 Ooze out
8 Rabbit's home
9 Comparable
10 They're struck out
11 Body passage
12 Swatch
15 Mag fillers
20 Winged Victory
21 Pile up
23 Wind about
26 Onion-flavored roll
27 Counting-rhyme start
29 Friar
30 Join in a game
31 Knife handle
32 Name in elevators
33 Novelist P.G. --
34 Pork selection
35 Triumphal outburst
37 Oscar film for Jane Fonda
41 World War II pope
43 Copyright kin
44 Trends
46 Ruhr Valley city
47 Tempus –
48 Abu –
49 Like a teacup
50 – -in-the-wool
51 Part of TGIF
52 Thieves from
53 Globule
54 You've got it –!
58 Groovy



metro.us/sudoku

easy

		6		8			1	4
4						2	6	
		9	3				8	
5		2		6		4	7	
	4	3		9		1		6
	2				1	6		
	5	1						9
6	7			2		5		

hard

2			5	6	1	7		
		7	2			5		
				4	7			6
3			7					5
		4				6		
9					8			1
4			9	1				
		5			6	9		
		9	4	8	5			3

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Problems will surface if you or someone you live with has been indulgent or impractical. Take action to turn things around in a positive manner.

Taurus Making alterations to your home to accommodate upcoming events will put added pressure on you and your bankbook. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance.

Gemini Money matters are best looked at carefully. You may think you have more to spend than you do. Look for sales, and budget your end-of-year expenses carefully.

Cancer Emotions will escalate when dealing with matters concerning children or your budget. Try to live within your means. Discuss your plans before you proceed.

Leo Secrets are best kept. Don't feel the need to make a last-minute decision just because someone else does. Protect your assets and position.

Virgo Plan to do something with children, or get together with a friend who shares similar interests. A shopping expedition will lead to bargains, but limit your expenses.

Libra Last-minute changes will lead to uncertainty and confusion. Making a fuss will cause bad feelings. Listen, observe and consider your options.

Scorpio Discuss your plans with someone you respect. Your options will expand because of the suggestions made. A change at home will allow you to pursue a venture.

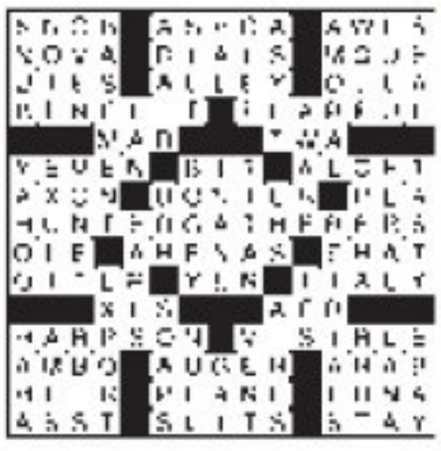
Sagittarius You need to step up when it comes to long-gestating projects. If you face facts and answer questions, you will be able to move forward stress-free.

Capricorn Share your feelings, but don't let situations escalate to a point of no return. Stay calm, be straightforward and stick to what you know is within your means.

Aquarius A closer look at your bank statement will help ease your mind. Get your house in order, both literally and figuratively, before the end of the year.

Pisces Get together with someone you haven't seen for quite a while. Catching up will give you insight into new possibilities for an interesting new year. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers



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